

FEBRUARY 21.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-five persons present.

The deaths of John W. Draper and Theo. Schwann, correspondents, were announced.

The death of Robert Bridges, M. D., having been announced, Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger was appointed to prepare a biographical notice for publication in the Proceedings.

FEBRUARY 28.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty persons present.

On Tourmalines.—Prof. LEIDY said, in absence of other matters of more importance, he would exhibit a collection of tourmalines which belonged to him, and which he thought from their variety would interest the members. He remarked that while black tourmalines are the most common, white ones are rarest. Recently, good-sized crystals of the latter had been found at De Kalb, St. Lawrence Co., New York. From a broken crystal he had obtained a fragment, from which the beautiful gem presented was cut. This is of brilliant form, highly lustrous, transparent, flawless, and nearly colorless, or with only the faintest yellowish tint, like that of a so-called "off-color" diamond; and weighs 398 milligrammes. Some remarkable black tourmalines were brought to this city, a couple of years ago, by Lieut. Wm. A. Mintzer, U. S. N., who obtained them at Niantilik, Cumberland Gulf, Arctic America. They are generally three- or six-sided crystals, with a single three- or six-sided pyramidal termination, of various sizes. A large one in Prof. Leidy's possession is thirteen inches long and one and three-quarter inches at the pyramidal extremity. Perhaps the most beautiful black tourmalines, recently discovered in abundance, are those of Pierrepont, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. They are remarkable for their perfection; occurring as doubly-terminated crystals, of large size and brilliant lustre. Fine brown tourmalines, often of large size and frequently doubly terminated, with one extremity much modified from the usual form, have also been found in abundance in late years, at Gouverneur, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. It may be said that this State is pre-eminent for the beauty of its black, white, and brown tourmalines.